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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PLANNING AND RESEARCH



KEN ALEX
DIRECTOR

June 17, 2014,

Dear Local Leaders,

Thank you very much for taking the time to talk with us about the drought, and how it is affecting Siskiyou, Modoc, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen, and Tehama Counties on June 13th, 2014.

We appreciated talking with you and will endeavor to work with you to deal with the important issues you raised at the meeting.

Attached please find a list of the specific topics we discussed, as well as the local and state point of contact for each topic. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) is coordinating the state's response to the drought. The Governor's Office of Planning and Research Drought Clearinghouse is working with Cal OES to communicate and coordinate with local governments.

If you have any questions or concerns about the attached list of issues, please contact Debbie Davis-Franco, Local Government Drought Liaison, at drought.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov or 916-327-0068.

There are many resources available online. There is a [statewide drought webpage](#). OPR has a [local government drought toolkit](#). You may also wish to examine the [weekly statewide drought update](#).

Thank you for your hard work and leadership; we look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely yours,

Debbie Davis-Franco
Local Government Drought Liaison
Community and Rural Affairs Advisor

Governor's Drought Task Force Visit
Siskiyou, Modoc, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen, and Tehama Counties
June 13th, 2014

Summary

This document is to inform Drought Task Force Visit attendees of continuing efforts to follow up on the tasks generated by the Governor's Drought Task Force Visit on June 13th, 2014 in Montague.

Action Items

- County Notification of Curtailments
- Resources for Local Enforcement Assistance
- Conservation Activities
- City of Montague
- Siskiyou County OES
- Follow up with Trinity County regarding dry well reporting
- Update on water quality question in Lewiston
- Update on Scott Valley Fish Relocation

Information Items

- On Farm Water/Energy Program
- Drought Food Assistance Program (DFAP) and Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP)
- Local Government Tool Kit
- Dust Mitigation
- California Water Action Plan
- California Groundwater Proposal
- Housing and Utility Assistance
- Curtailment Authority and Enforcement

Action Items

- **County Notification of Curtailments**

State Water Board staff has been working through the Rural County Representatives of California's counsel to conduct calls with county officials before curtailment notices are sent. Felicia Marcus and John O'Hagan, State Water Board head of enforcement, spoke with Mr. Egan and a deputy to explain water curtailments. Mr. O'Hagan also spoke with Modoc County supervisors including James Wills from District 4.

Contacts

- ➔ Felicia Marcus, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
fmarcus@waterboards.ca.gov 916.341.5603
- ➔ John O'Hagan, Manager, State Water Board Enforcement Program
johagan@waterboards.ca.gov 916.341.5368
- ➔ Cris Carrigan, Counsel, State Water Board Enforcement Program
- ➔ Judy Pflueger, Trinity County Supervisor, District 1
jpflueger@trinitycounty.org
- ➔ Richard Egan, Lassen County Interim CAO
530.251.8333

- **Resources for Local Enforcement Assistance**

With regard to concerns raised about the impacts of illegal marijuana cultivation on water supply and quality, Cris Carrigan, Enforcement Counsel for the State Water Board, has been connected with Trinity County Supervisor Judy Pflueger;

- **Conservation Activities**

The Board is also considering [Emergency Regulations](#) in mid-July for urban water conservation. The proposal is being developed and may include things like invoking higher stages of drought plans on file, or declaring certain uses, like over-watering lawns, as "unreasonable" during a drought.

- **City of Montague**

A permanent solution for the City of Montague has been planned and funds have been allocated to the project. The application for a final permit has been finalized and the city is working closely with OES and other state agencies to ensure that a permanent solution will be in place by mid-August.

Contacts

- ➔ Eric Lamoureux, Inland Regional OES Manager
Eric.Lamoureux@CalOES.ca.gov
- ➔ Montague Water Conservation District
530.459.3371

- **Siskiyou County OES**

There are no programs currently available to provide funding to rural counties to hire additional emergency service staff. If specific needs and durations are known, CalOES can offer a few other options by contacting their regional OES manager:

- Facilitation of staffing via mutual aid process from the Emergency Managers Association
- CalOES may be able to assign an Emergency Services Coordinator
- CalOES may be able to temporarily redirect Recovery Staff assigned to Redding's office to assist
- EMPG funding can be evaluated to determine if requirements can be waived to be used for the specific purpose of drought related assignments

Contacts:

- ➔ Charles Rabamad, CalOES Assistant Director for Recovery
Charles.rabamad@caloes.ca.gov
- ➔ Eric Lamoureux, Inland Regional OES Manager
Eric.Lamoureux@CalOES.ca.gov
- ➔ Ron Quigley, Siskiyou County Deputy Director of Emergency Services
Phone: 530.841.2155 rquigley@co.siskiyou.ca.us

- **Follow up with Trinity County regarding dry well reporting**

OES Inland Region Staff are working with Trinity County to assess the information and report back.

Contacts:

- ➔ Charles Rabamad, CalOES Assistant Director for Recovery
Charles.rabamad@caloes.ca.gov

- **Update on water quality question in Lewiston**

A question was raised in regards to water quality in the community of Lewiston. CalOES staff worked with local agencies in the area to mitigate concerns related to local water use.

Contact:

- ➔ L. R. Adams, CalOES Regional ESC
Phone 530.526.0922 Grizz.Adams@caloes.ca.gov

- **Update on Scott Valley Fish Relocation**

Scott River Water Trust, Scott Valley Resource Conservation District (RCD), NOAA, CDFW and biologists from the Karuk Tribe have been working on developing a project to relocate fish from the river to their native upper tributaries since approximately February. The actual process of relocating fish was initiated in mid-May and it's estimated that approximately 50% of the project is complete as of the end of June. The initial method of netting the fish proved to be fairly inefficient as they were only relocating approximately 1000 fish per day. They have since changed their method to fish traps and have been relocating approximately 4000-5000 fish per day using this method. There is an agreement that CDFW and NOAA have developed with

landowners to provide some assurances as it relates to removing or relocating fish on private property. Those who did not sign the agreement did not have fish relocated into tributaries encroaching on those properties.

Contacts:

- ➔ Ron Quigley, Deputy Director of Emergency Services
Siskiyou County Office of Emergency Services
Phone: 530.841.2155 rquigley@co.siskiyou.ca.us

Information Items

- **On Farm Water/Energy Program**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is now accepting applications for the [State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program \(SWEET\)](#), authorized by emergency drought legislation (Senate Bill 103). An estimated \$10 million in competitive grant funding will be awarded to provide financial assistance to agricultural operations for implementation of water conservation measures that result in increased water efficiency and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. The deadline for application to the SWEET is July 15th, 2014 at 5pm. Prospective applicants may contact CDFA's Grants Office at grants@cdfa.ca.gov with general program questions.

- **Drought Food Assistance Program (DFAP) and Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP)**

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) implemented the [DFAP](#) to provide prepackaged boxes with non-perishable food for a household of four for about five days. The boxes contain canned vegetables, soup, peanut butter, rice and beans. Beginning in May the California Emergency Foodlink began shipping the first DFAP food boxes. Households residing in these counties are eligible for DFAP if they self-certify that they are underemployed or unemployed due to the drought. As of July 10th, 2014, over 110,000 DFAP food boxes were delivered to food banks. [EFAP](#) provides United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodities to a network of food banks for distribution to eligible individuals and households within their service area. In order to be eligible for USDA commodities, a recipient or household must reside in the geographical area being served and meet established income guidelines.

Contacts:

- ➔ Sabrina Sassman, California Department of Social Services
Sabrina.sassman@dss.ca.gov

- **Local Government Tool Kit**

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) created the Local Drought Clearinghouse to provide a point of contact for local governments and agencies dealing with drought. This [toolkit](#), designed to promote Conservation, Coordination and Communication, will be followed by regular updates and additional information on our website and distributed through a local

government drought listserve. Please share this memo and the tools and resources included with everyone who might benefit from the information.

- **Dust Mitigation**

As the drought continues, areas previously covered with plant growth can become barren, exposing the dry soil to the wind. This can result in hazardous amounts of airborne dust. The CDFA [Drought Measures for Dust Mitigation and Air Quality in California](#) website is a valuable resource for agencies, organizations and individuals struggling with drought related air quality problems.

- **California Water Action Plan**

The [California Water Action Plan](#) is a set of ten actions created by the California Natural Resources Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Food and Agriculture that defines goals and vision for water in California for the next 5 years. The plan will guide state efforts to enhance water supply reliability, restore damaged and destroyed ecosystems, and improve the resilience of our infrastructure.

- **California Groundwater Proposal**

The Administration's [California Groundwater Proposal](#) is a result of meetings outreach to local and regional agencies, advocacy groups and non-governmental organizations and is designed to accomplish two things: define the local authorities needed to manage groundwater sustainably; and describe how the State should protect basins and users if local efforts are not sufficient. The proposal grew out of the California Water Action Plan item #6: "Expand water storage capacity and improve groundwater management".

- **Housing and Utility Assistance**

The purpose of the [HCD Drought Housing Rental Subsidies Program](#) is to provide rental subsidies for the purposes of disaster relief to persons rendered Homeless or at Risk of Becoming Homeless due to unemployment, underemployment or other economic hardship or losses resulting from the state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor on January 17, 2014. The rental subsidies shall provide rental assistance on behalf of individuals who are employed or underemployed because agricultural or other businesses are affected by the drought conditions, and to other persons who have suffered economic losses due to the drought conditions. This program is directed at the local government for dispersal to individuals in need.

The HCD has made available \$10 million dollars for housing and utility assistance. These funds will be administrated by La Cooperativa, a non-profit organization that was awarded the contract via competitive process. The organization will have 50 offices distributed within the 24 county priority area, with 4 mobile units deployed to cover remote areas. Assistance will be distributed to individuals and families who are less than 30 days in arrears and/or will need assistance within 60 days. Access to the program will be determined by an application/self-reporting process with minimums based on federal poverty levels and Area Median Income.

Amount dispersed will be determined by HUD fair market rent rates (FMR) for a given county. Funds are currently available.

Contacts:

→ Julissa Garcia, La Cooperativa Drought Assistance Coordinator
Phone: 916.388.2228 jgarcia@lacooperativa.org

- **Curtailment Authority and Enforcement**

Under California law there are three categories of surface water rights: riparian (reasonable use adjacent to a water body; shortages shared equally along that watercourse), Pre 1914 “appropriative” rights, where someone claimed a certain amount from a certain place in a certain way for a certain purpose and has maintained that use, and Post 1914 “appropriative” rights, where someone has done the same but has also had to file for a permit or license under the state water code. Within the latter two classes, seniority is by year of acquisition of the right. Curtailment happens when there is not enough water in a watercourse to meet all water rights holders’ legal rights; thus people with junior water rights are “cut off” or “curtailed” entirely in favor of their seniors. Curtailments are lifted as water is again available, based on hydrology, to meet more water rights holders’ appropriate amounts. Enforcement involves cease and desist orders with opportunity for appeal. The Board is currently considering emergency regulations, as authorized in drought legislation, to be able to expedite enforcement in order to better protect senior water rights.

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